

West Lafayette Beautification Award

October 2009

Jeff and Laura Shiver moved to their new home in St. Joseph's subdivision three years ago and immediately started working on a landscape. Phase one was installation of the lawns and garden beds, with irrigation and soil amendments their first priority. Working with Andy Frisco, they chose their primary focal shrubs and trees and waited a year to see what survived, what flourished, and what needed to be replaced. The second phase was more time-consuming, as they worked together to develop a variety of plant textures, blooming season, and sustainability....this is a busy family with not a lot of gardening time during sports seasons. The result is a well-established and balanced landscape that has room to keep maturing, but fits the architecture of their home and the neighborhood. As a native of Alabama, Jeff would like to have a palette of azaleas blooming during the spring, but he is still looking for those varieties that can survive a West Lafayette winter, especially on the north side where the winds blow.

One of the Shivers' favorite pastimes is watching hummingbirds...Jeff puts the feeders out the end of March, and soon the scouts return. They have a variety of plants that attract these perennial visitors, as well as feeders. They have plans for an outdoor fireplace in the back, as well as more trees in plantings along the boundary fences. This will be an interesting and attractive landscape to watch mature.



